CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

News Release

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Beach Café and Cottage Rentals Ready for Summer

Overnight Lodging at Crystal Cove Cottages Coming This Summer, Reservation System Gearing Up

Cottage Opening Just Around the Corner

California State Parks' Director Ruth Coleman announced today that final preparations are underway for an opening this summer of the first group of restored historic cottages at Crystal Cove and later this month, ReserveAmerica will begin taking reservations for overnight rentals.

"We are thrilled that we are now in the final countdown for opening this unique and special place," said State Parks' Director Ruth Coleman. "It is unique in the history of our State Park System. Where else can one find the wonderful look and feel of a small, coastal village, with narrow roads, walkways and staircases, placed in such a dramatic coastal setting. With its rustic charm and historic feel, we anticipate a huge demand by people who are eager to spend a night at a place unlike anything found anywhere on the West Coast."

By summer, 13 of the restored cottages, including 3 dorm-style cottages, will be available to the public for affordable overnight lodging. The rustic cottages, each with its own theme and furnished in period décor, offer visitors a chance to experience an early California beach community reminiscent of the easy going oceanfront lifestyle of the 1930's, 40's, and 50's.

"Stepping through the front door of any of these cottages will be a step back in time for our overnight visitors," said Rich Rozzelle, Superintendent of the State Parks' Orange Coast District. "We

think the character of what-was in the early 1900s has been recaptured and we are anxious for the public to come and explore."

Making Overnight Reservations

Lodging reservations can be made beginning at 8 a.m. April 27, 2006, for overnight accommodations beginning June 26, 2006, by contacting ReserveAmerica at 1-800-444-PARK or online at www.parks.ca.gov. Go to Reservations and Fees and Camping Reservations and continue to Crystal Cove SP.   Please note that ReserveAmerica does not keep waiting lists and will not take reservations before 8 a.m. April 27.

The non-profit Crystal Cove Alliance has been awarded a 20 year contract for food and lodging services at the Historic District of Crystal Cove State Park, located in Orange County. The Alliance is the master concessionaire, responsible for the overall operation of the overnight lodging and food components at the park. It will operate the overnight rentals and oversee the food component in a sub-agreement with an affiliate of The Ruby Restaurant Group.

Dining at Crystal Cove

Also opening this summer at the Historic District is the Beachcomber Café, a restored beachfront cottage, offering a relaxed dining atmosphere with spectacular ocean views and a quality menu. The food service portion of the concession contract, which includes the Crystal Cove Shake Shack on Pacific Coast Highway, will be operated jointly by Crystal Cove Alliance and an affiliate of The Ruby Restaurant Group.

 "We are working to capture the historic theme and feel of this place in the flavors and smells that will come from our kitchen," said Doug Cavanaugh, a local resident and co-owner of The Ruby Restaurant Group. "We think our commitment to quality service is a perfect match for Ruby's and Crystal Cove Alliance. We are anxious to open our doors to the people of California and beyond."

 For additional information, please contact Crystal Cove State Park at (949) 494-3539 or visit the park concessionaire on line at www.crystalcovealliance.org.

This opening marks the completion of Phase 1 of the historic district restoration. In this phase, 22 of the 46 cottages have been restored, along with extensive infrastructure improvements, including accessibility, roads, landscaping, a new entrance station, restrooms, parking, utilities, water quality and environmental protection, slope stabilization and more.

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